

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 EA-06 ITFE-05 SR-02 ORM-01 CPR-01

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R 051202Z JUN 75

FM AMEMBASSY ROME

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 1404

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE ROME 8032

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PFOR, SREF, VT

SUBJECT: POPE'S REPLY TO PRESIDENT'S LETTER ON VIETNAM REFUGEES

REF: STATE 107158

1. UNDER COVER OF LETTER FROM ARCHBISHOP BENELLI TO ILLING
THE FOLLOWING REPLY TO PRESIDENT'S LETTER OF MAY 8 TO POPE PAUL
HAS BEEN RECEIVED:

"TO THE HONORABLE GERALD R. FORD
"PRESIDENT OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA

"WE ARE WRITING WITH REFERENCE TO YOUR LETTER OF MAY 8,
1975, AND THE APPEAL THAT WE TRANSMITTED TO YOU THROUGH AMBAS-
SADOR HENRY CABOT LODGE ON MARCH 28 LAST. WITH GREAT CONCERN
FOR HUMAN SUFFERING AND MOVED BY THE PLEAS OF THE PARTIES CON-
CERNED, WE ASKED YOU TO DO WHATEVER WAS POSSIBLE TO ASSIST IN
THE EVACUATION OF THOSE PEOPLE WHO WISHED TO BE TRANSFERRED FROM
A WAR-INFECTED ZONE TO OTHER REGIONS OF VIETNAM - REGIONS THEN
CONSIDERED SAFER.

"WE WISH NOW TO EXPRESS OUR GRATITUDE FOR WHAT YOU WERE
ABLE TO DO, WITH A GENEROUS AND HUMANITARIAN COMMITMENT, TO MEET
THIS PARTICULAR APPEAL OF OURS.

"IN REGARD TO THE OVERALL QUESTION OF REFUGEES, WE WOULD
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ASSURE YOU THAT THE CATHOLIC CHURCH IS INDEED MAKING EVERY
ENDEAVOR TO COME TO THE ASSISTANCE OF ALL PEOPLE WHO ARE SUFFERING,

WHEREVER THEY ARE. SHE HAS ALWAYS AND IN ALL PLACES DONE THIS,
AND AT PRESENT SHE IS COMMITTING THE VERY BEST OF HER ENERGIES
TO THIS AIM. WITH THE HELP OF GOD SHE WILL CONTINUE TO PURSUE
THIS POLICY.

"AS WE EXPRESS OUR PRAYERFUL GOOD WISHES FOR THE SUCCESS OF
YOUR OWN EFFORTS ON BEHALF OF HUMANITY, WE INVOKE UPON YOU AND
ALL THE PEOPLE OF THE UNITED STATES ABUNDANT BLESSINGS FROM GOD.

"FROM THE VATICAN, JUNE 1, 1975.

"PAULUS P P. VI"

2. ORIGINAL LETTER BEING POUCHED TODAY, REGISTRY NO. 954340.
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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
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Margaret P. Grafeld
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